

**SOCIAL DISCRIMINATION AGAINST MINORITY
REFLECTED IN OKKY MADASARI'S NOVEL *THE OUTCAST*
(2014): A MARXIST ANALYSIS**



Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for
Getting Bachelor Degree in Department of English Education

By

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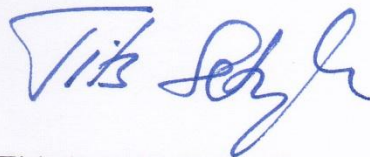
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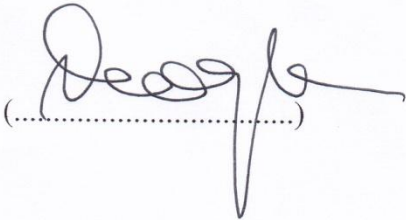
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SOCIAL DISCRIMINATION AGAINST MINORITY REFLECTED IN OKKY MADASARI'S NOVEL *THE OUTCAST* (2014): MARXIST THEORY

Abstract

This study is about how social discrimination reflected by OkkyMadasari's *The Outcast* novel. The aim of this study is to describe the indicators of the social discrimination, to analyze the depiction of social discrimination, and to reveal the reason why OkkyMadasari illustrated the social discrimination in her novel. In analyzing this novel, the researcher uses Marxist theory and qualitative method. The study comes to the following conclusions. Firstly, the depiction of the social discrimination is depicted through the plot and characters of the novel. Secondly, there are five of principals of human life, i.e. dialectical materialism, historical materialism, alienation, class struggle and revolution. Thirdly, what the author reason write *The Outcast* novel is to criticize about the society and she wants to awaken the public opinion about minority and social discrimination in their environment.

Keyword: The Outcast, Marxist, Minorities, Social Discrimination

Abstrak

Penelitian ini menunjukkan tentang bagaimana Okky Madasari menggambarkan diskriminasi di lingkup sosial yang terdapat dalam novel *The Outcast*. tujuan dalam penelitian ini adalah untuk mendisripsikan indikator dari diskriminasi sosial itu sendiri, analisa penggambaran diskriminasi sosial, dan menyatakan alasan Okky Madasari menggambarkan kasus diskriminasi dalam novelnya. Peneliti menggunakan metode kualitatif dalam menganalisis novel tersebut. Penelitian ini memberikan beberapa kesimpulan, pertama, penggambaran diskriminasi sosial dalam novel, yang dapat dilihat dari alur dan karakternya. Kedua ada beberapa prinsip dari kehidupan manusia dalam pemikiran marxis yang digambarkan dalam novel *The Outcats*, yaitu dialektika, materialme sejarah, pengasingan, perjuangan kelas, dan revolusi. Ketiga, alasan mengapa penulis menulis novel tersebut adalah untuk mengkritik masyarakat pada era tersebut bahkan era sekarang dan dia ingin menghidupkan opini tentang minoritas dan masalah sosial yang ada di sekitar mereka.

Kata kunci: The Outcast, Marxis, Minoritas, Diskriminasi Sosial

1. INTRODUCTION

Discrimination according to Theodorson & Theodorson (1979:115) "is unequal treatment against individuals or groups, based on categorical, unique attributes, such as race, ethnicity, religion or membership of social classes".

The meaning of discrimination is unequal treatment against groups of people, which is essentially the same as the perpetrators of discrimination. The object of discrimination actually has some of the same capacity and services.

The term of discrimination is usually to describe, an act of the majority of the more dominant than minority to act arbitrarily, According to Theodorson&Theodorson (1979:258) "minorities are the groups that are recognized based on race, religion or ethnicity, who suffered losses as a result of prejudice", In the novel *The Outcast*, Madasari write how the majority have negative perception and how they perform various acts of discrimination against minorities, especially discrimination against followers of a particular religion. In the novel by Madasari that portrayed by minorities as religious followers of Ahmadiyya, so far Ahmadi are prohibited to grow anywhere, especially in Indonesia, because of their belief in their Prophet that is different from the actual religion of Islam, group of Ahmadiyya people whose presence is lately questionable. This flow has been present in Indonesia since 1925. On June 2008, the Indonesian government issued a decree that banned Ahmadiyya practically doing activities outside, in the decree states that the Ahmadi are prohibited from spreading his doctrine, Havia (2008).

In *The Outcast* Novel, Madasari takes Maryam as the main character and as a minority in her country, Madasari writes how Maryam always shunned by her friends, her teacher, and even some other unfair treatment. She was evicted from her own home, with her family, and the other Ahmadi, and placed where not feasible to be occupied. According to adjudicator on Khatulistiwa literary award 2012 he states that *The Outcast* novel is one of criticism against the oppression of the powerful against the weak in the name of religion, there are many advantages and disadvantages. According to Htnzil (Nov 30th , 2012 11:40) state that this novel tell about the humanitarian side of the oppressed, represented by Ahmadiyah and then NisaRahman (2012) states that novel of *the Outcast* gives the perception if Muslim people are anarchistic, but In *The Outcast* novel Madasari raised that forces the reader to dig a fact and truth to apply in interpreting her novel that is about Ahmadiyah, the minority of

Indonesian. How the minorities fight for their rights, defend what they believe against the majority or a larger group of more powerful and think that they were the most correct. The main reason the researcher takes *The Outcast* novel is because this novel incident raised issues that exist in the world around us.

A lot of issues can be taken in this novel, which could make the readers see how a minority in Indonesian country and the conflicts that occur in the social. Social conflicts nowadays very interested to study, mainly about discrimination. In this study, a researcher reveals Marxist analysis to examine of social, economic and political contained in the novel *The Outcast*. According to Suseno (2001:5) "Marxist is a term of the ideology about relation between economy, social, and political". The researcher using Marxist theory as an approach to analyze this novel, because Marxist theory is the most appropriate theory which is discusses about discrimination. The problem of this study is differences having religion and between the powerful and the weak, aspects of human life such as economic, social and political aspects. From the statement above, the researcher concludes that it is important to make analyze social discrimination.

1.1 Marxist in Literary Theory

Marxism is part of literary criticism, According to Eagleton (1977:3) he explains that "Marx actually affected by the dialectic of Hegel's philosophy of looking at art". Marxism see art as a view of super structural part of the social environment. Thereby, in Marxist theory, to understand the whole process of literature understands of society first. Marxist in the literature has a long history. Criticism of Marxist theory begins with the famous three large text, such as contained in the letters of praise from Engels and three are in short essays written by Lenin, based Steiner (1967) Marxist thought originated from Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, in 1848 they issued a public statement about the culture which have great impact on the history of human thought, In the document the document stated Marx and Engels human social history is the history of class struggle. The class struggle is meant is that there are economic classes compete and even beat each other to compete for and obtain socio-

economic position and political status, life intellectual of religions, cultures, and even art Literature was affected by the structure and the class struggle.

1.2 The Principle of Human Life

There are five basic assumptions about the Marxist approach to human life firstly dialectical materialism, According to Elster (2007: 47), “dialectical are concepts which show of conflict, antagonism or contradiction that is needed to reaching some containing result”. While materialism understands in the philosophy which states that things can be said that actually exist. Basically all the things composed of matter and all phenomena are the result of material interactions. Secondly, historical materialism is the view of the underlying factors that determine the development of history. Thirdly, alienation, the word alienation can be interpreted as the result of the oppression or discrimination from a class to another class, Suseno (2010). Karl Marx assumes money is a sign of human alienation; Marx's concept of alienation is based on his analysis of alienated labor or minorities, fourthly, class struggle and fifthly is revolution.

1.3 Social Discrimination

Discrimination is the behavior of a group is shown to prevent or limit other group seeking to have or obtain resources. Theoretically discrimination can be made through policies to reduce, to abolish, and to conquer, to move, to protect legally, and to create pluralism culture and to assimilate other groups. According to Pettigrew in Liliwei's book (2005: 221) there are two types of discrimination, direct discrimination and indirect discrimination.

2. METHOD

In analyzing the novel, the researcher uses qualitative method. It is usually in descriptive form. The material object of the study is *The Outcast* novel, which is written by Okky Madasari (2014). The formal objects of the study are some books that discusses about the social discrimination and Marxist theory. This research paper uses the library research in analyzing the data. It aims to collecting the closest possible information and finding the

literary reviews, which have relation with the study. It can be the source to analyze and to get any information for this research paper.

3. THE RESULTS OF THE STUDY AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Social Discrimination against Minority

According to Theodorson and theodorson (1979:115) "Discrimination is every restriction, harassment based on human differences on the basis of religion, race, ethnic group, class, social status, economic status, gender, language, beliefs that lead to aberrations of human rights" there are several criteria in this novel that is based on beliefs and social status. The beliefs that believed in this novel is the Ahmadiyya, Beginning of the beliefs that originated from Maryam's grandfather, described in the novel as well, that the Maryam's grandfather has a good religious knowledge, and is often asked to be a preacher or priest in the village mosque. The high of curiosity having by Maryam's grandfather make him always follows the teaching of Ahmadi in Praya. That belief is what makes Maryam considers as a minority to be destroyed. The outcast novel story begins when Maryam was a child, according to Pettigrew in Liliweri book (2005: 221), and has advised there are two discriminations, namely:

3.1.1 direct discrimination

Direct discrimination is the act of restricting a particular area, such as settlement, occupation, public facilities, and also occurs when taking decisions guided by prejudices against certain groups, Pettigrew (2005), begins with an understanding of the origins of belief that believed by Maryam and her family and the entire Ahmadi, making them often discriminated against in the form of restrictions on their territory. Discrimination can be seen in the novel, in the form of expulsion, exile, and threats by majority.

3.1.2 indirect discrimination

Indirect discrimination is carried out through the creation of policies that deter racial or ethnic specific to independently associate with racial or ethnic, others in which the rules and procedures which they live can not

contain any discrimination and cause systematic losses for the community or particular group of people, Pettigrew (2005) indirect discrimination, basically they attack through psychic or mental Ahmadis person. In the story the incidence of indirect discrimination done by her own family, Maryam's father and mother and also from the Maryam's mother-in-law, discrimination committed by the Maryam's family is a form of forbidden, Maryam forbade to seek a husband from outsider or non-Ahmadis, Because it will cause a bad case, and also the reason of Maryam's parents is to maintain the integrity of the family, and also to keep what they already believe.

3.2 The principal of human life

According to Hegel there are a principal of human life, the first is dialectical materialism, historical materialism, alienation, class struggle, and revolution.

3.2.1 dialectical materialism

In dialectical materialism there are consist of thesis, antithesis and synthesis. The thesis occurred in the novel, as an Ahmadiyah person, the religion from Islam and has different beliefs on prophet. The last prophet of Muslim's people is Muhammad SAW, while the prophet of Ahmadis beliefs is called Mirza Gulam Ahmad. In the story, Maryam's grandfather is the beginner in the Gerupuk village as an Ahmadiyah. And the antithesis comes from Majority person that telling as a Muslim, that didn't agree with Maryam's grandfather beliefs, and finally they They run out of patience because of the beliefs they perceive to be heretical, they are disappointed and afraid Ahmadiyah teachings spread everywhere because they know that teaching is heresy. As a synthesis that the Ahmadiyya are taught by different da'wahs, they recognize that Ahmadiyah's prophet is someone other than those recognized by Muslims person, basically they, the minority and the majority have the beliefs they believe in, and also try to defend what they believe. In fact, the majority is always winning, in every place

3.2.2 historical materialism

Historical of materialism that occurs in the novel is as a background of the main character, Maryam. From the historical about first thought an

Ahmadiyah from her grandfather and then how the resident unaccepted the Ahmadiyah thought because has different background of Islam,

3.2.3 alienation

Alienation occurs in several forms, whether a ban, and an expulsion. Maryam's parent banned Maryam marry with another Ahmadi's it's the first alienation that make Maryam alienated with the non-Ahmadi, and the expulsion comes from the society, they are expelled all of Ahmadi from their hometown with a reason as the Ahmadiyah teachings do not make the people anxious, and also for the Ahmadiyah people to return to the right path, or any other reason for them to be saturated to believe in the Ahmadiyah. That makes the alienated Ahmadi's person from their hometown.

3.2.4 class struggle

Class in this novel interpret as minority and majority, the majority have a big power to beat out the minority because the average majority has a large number than minorities. So that makes the minority have to struggling for their right and equality as a majority. Told in the stories that Maryam make any struggling to make her existence is accepted by society, the first is try to keep away from Ahmadiyya activity, she choose working in Jakarta, so that Maryam not judge as the heretical person, and then she married a person who non-Ahmadi and leave her family with purpose she can live normal like majority people. But not all Maryam's struggles get the equality go in good manner. In the end she must back to his family and get more mistreatment from the majority. As a last Maryam attempt and who has been evicted for the umpteenth time, Maryam can only write letters, because her voice is not heard. The fifth is revolution, According to Fromm in Prihantono's Book (2014), states that "Revolution is the ultimate form of the class struggle, or commonly referred to changes that may be planned or unplanned". In The Outcast novel, it is not told how the people of the monarchy achieve what they expect, because at the end of the story they are still in a state of consecration in Transito Building, the changes that occur in the minority are getting worse. Of course that is what the majority wishes.

3.3 The Reason of the Author Address the Social Discrimination in the novel

Of several phrases commonly spoken by Okky Madasari, Madasari wants to show the injustices that exist in society; Madasari said her concern over the violence under the guise of religion is often the case these days. she wanted to express that the literary work can upload the consciousness of the readers will gradually fight against injustice and find out how the struggle of the oppressed is going on around us. Somehow we should not only silence

3.4 Discussion

The author introduces the problems that arise in the course of the social discrimination; in *The Outcast* Novel, Madasari mentioned minority as an Ahmadiyah, as the Muslim know, Ahmadiyah have a different view about Prophet, The Muslim told as an majority that struggling their religion and also Ahmadiyah cannot accept if their beliefs recognized as heretical doctrine. Marxist sees the social discrimination as the effect of the social and cultural change. The social and cultural change is a product of materialism Marx and Engels (1848). The social discrimination happens if there is a desire to change their social status. However, the social sinking happens unintentionally. The social mobility is shattering the capitalism. It also ruins the idea that the bourgeoisie and proletariats, that portrayed as minority and majority.

Okky Madasari constructs the social discrimination against minority and complex human problem in this novel. Madasari said her concern over the violence under the guise of religion is often the case these days. she wanted to express that the literary work can upload the consciousness of the readers will gradually fight against injustice and find out how the struggle of the oppressed is going on around us. Somehow we should not only silence.

4. CONCLUSION

The researcher concludes this research based on Marxist theory. Analysis, which is based on the concept of social, politic and economy that reflected in minority group in *The Outcast* novel by Okky Madasari and also, explain how

they grapple with a wide range of things that should they stand for. The first in the form of discrimination that occurs against minority as direct and indirect, and also mentioned several principal of human life based Marxist thought, use ideology about dialectical, historical materialism, alienation, class struggle and also revolution.

After learning the principal of human life based Hegel theory, researcher translate the issues that researcher take, what are the discrimination against minorities, researcher made some sub associated with things that are advocated by minorities which discrimination that occur in society reflected by Ahmadiyyah group. And the third is the reason from the author take theme about social discrimination in her novel she publish was clearly to criticize the political and social system in a country

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